Samuel Merritt University Alumni Survey

2016-2017 Collection Year

Survey Details

Graduates of 2011-2012 and 2015-2016 were surveyed
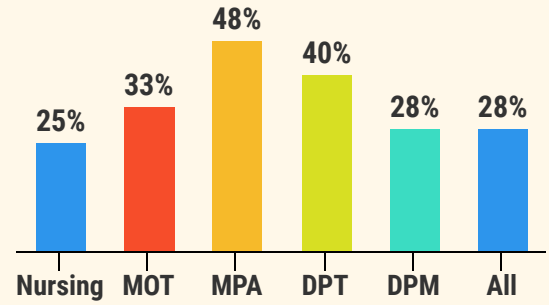
1240 graduates surveyed

28% responded

Response Rates

- Nursing 25%
- MOT 33%
- MPA 48%
- DPT 40%
- DPM 28%
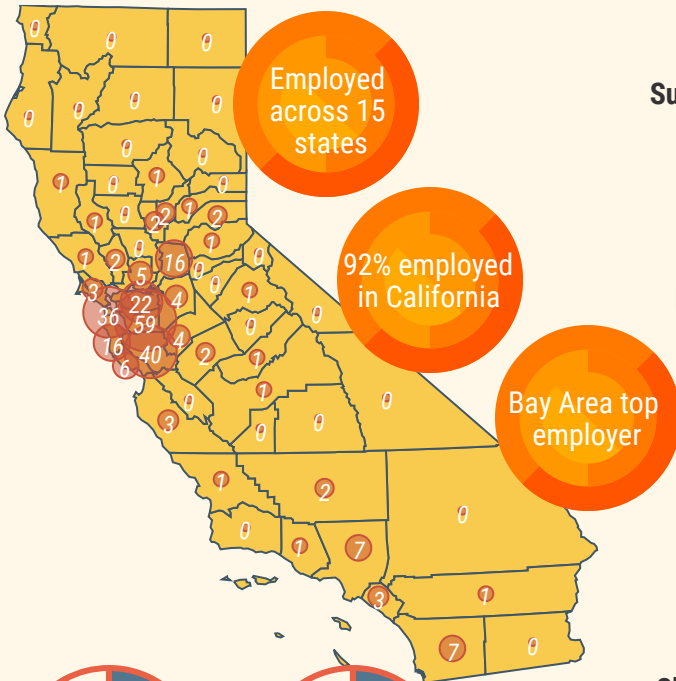- All 28%

Employment Rates

Overall employment rates are up

78% of graduates 2011-2012 were employed in their specialty within six months of graduation from SMU. (+6% since last collection year, five years out).
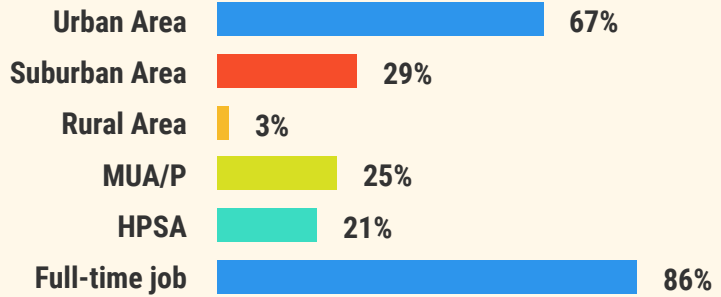
82% of 2015-2016 graduates were employed in their specialty within six months of graduation from SMU. (+9% since last collection year, one year out)

94% graduates are currently employed in their specialty. (+3% since last collection year)
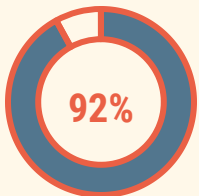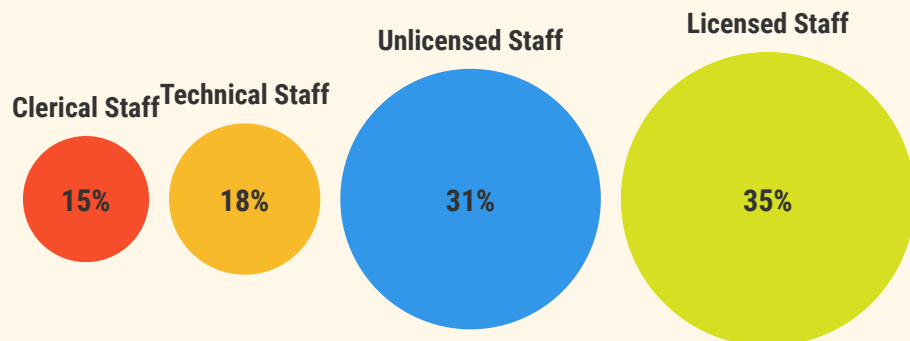
Employment Details

Employed across 15 states

92% employed in California

Bay Area top employer

Employment Location

- Urban Area 67%
- Suburban Area 29%
- Rural Area 3%
- MUA/P 25%
- HPSA 21%
- Full-time job 86%

92% Employed in Direct Patient Care
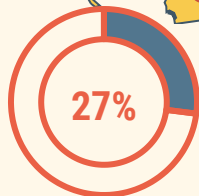
27% Clinical Preceptor in current job

Management/Supervision Responsibilities

- Clerical Staff 15%
- Technical Staff 18%
- Unlicensed Staff 31%
- Licensed Staff 35%

Annual Full-time Salaries (Average)

ABSN and BSN

$111,247 — 2011-2012
$104,005 — 2015-2016

ELCM and ELFNP

$118,643 — 2011-2012
$119,200 — 2015-2016

FNP, CM and DNP

$148,500 — 2011-2012
$147,500 — 2015-2016

CRNA

$174,000 — 2011-2012
$186,250 — 2015-2016

MPA

$88,400 — 2011-2012
$84,577 — 2015-2016

MOT

$95,000 — 2011-2012
$77,700 — 2015-2016

DPT

$85,000 — 2011-2012
$90,300 — 2015-2016
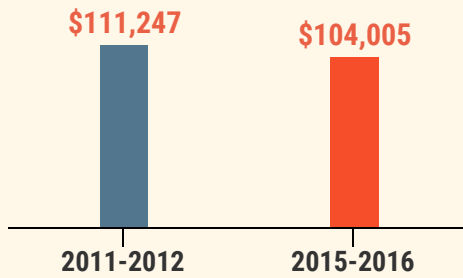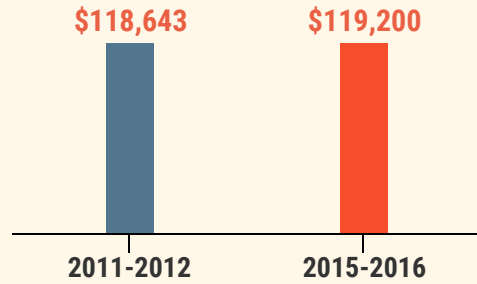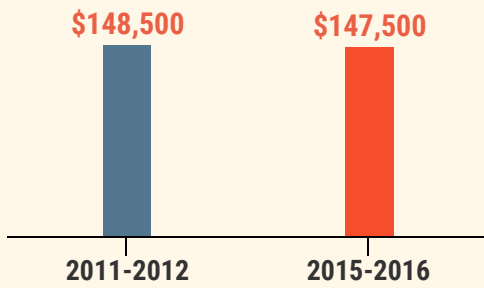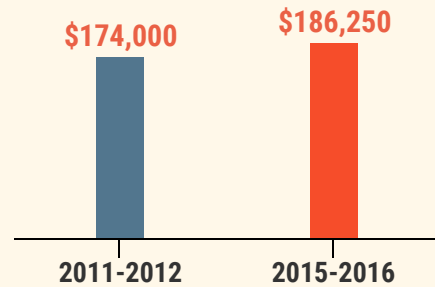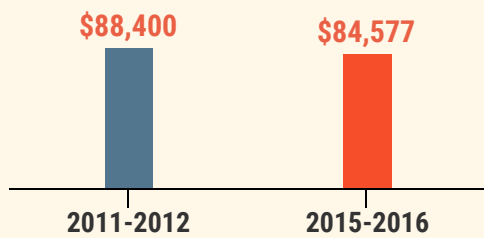
Note: there were many more respondents in each program from the 2015-2016 graduating year. This does not allow for normalization of the salary data to reflect increased salaries for the 2011-2012 graduates. In some programs, the 2015-2016 graduates would appear to have higher average salaries than the 2011-2012 graduates.

Competency Ratings (self assessment)

Level of Competence at Graduation

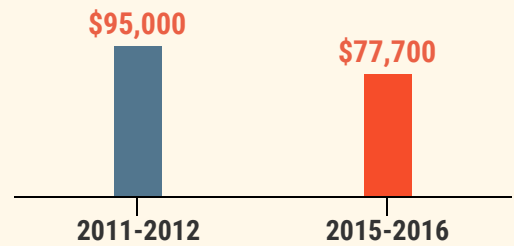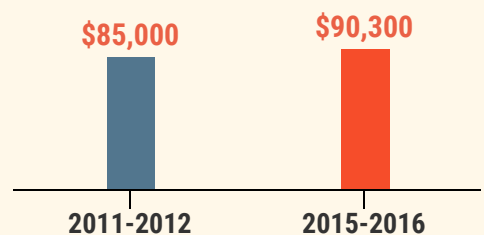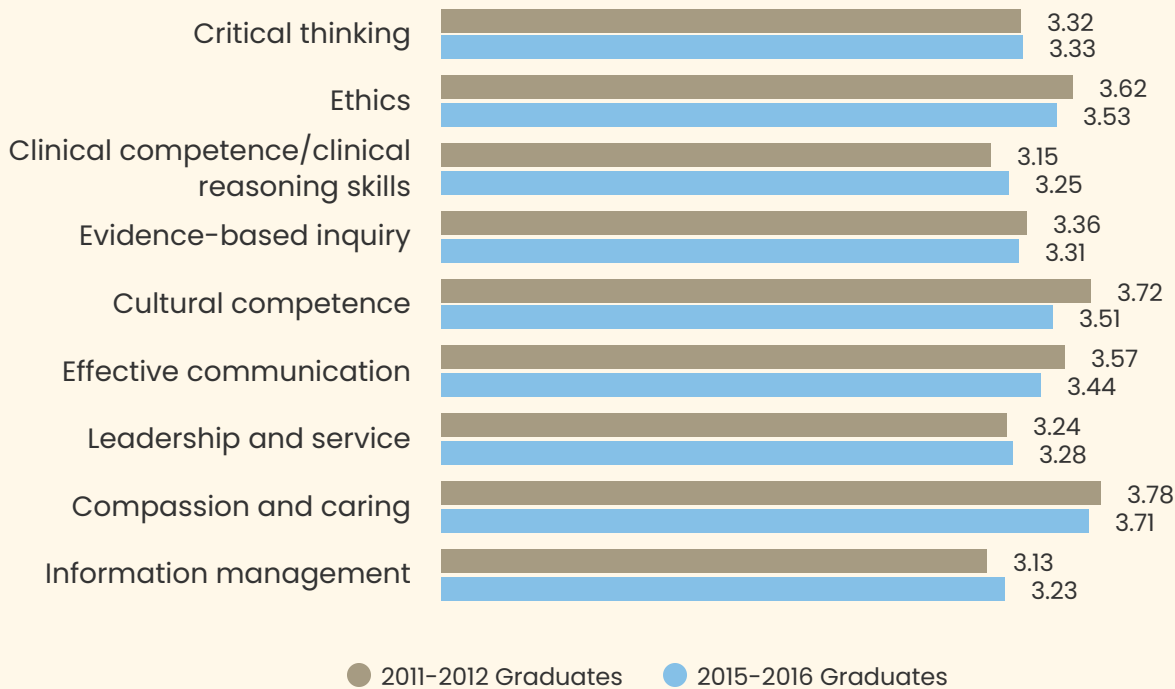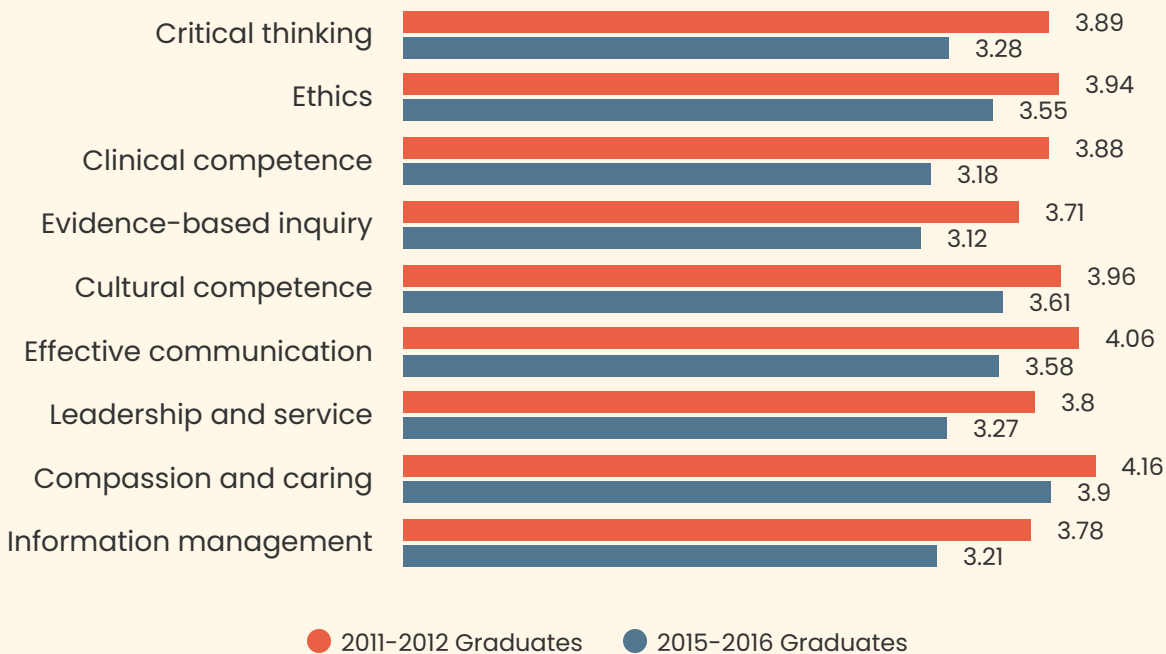| Competency	2011-2012 Graduates	2015-2016 Graduates
Critical thinking	3.32	3.33
Ethics	3.62	3.53
Clinical competence/clinical reasoning skills	3.15	3.25
Evidence-based inquiry	3.36	3.31
Cultural competence	3.72	3.51
Effective communication	3.57	3.44
Leadership and service	3.24	3.28
Compassion and caring	3.78	3.71
Information management	3.13	3.23

● 2011-2012 Graduates ● 2015-2016 Graduates

Scale - 1: Below Entry Level 5: Master Clinician Level

Graduates leave SMU with higher levels of competency in "Ethics", "Cultural competence" and "Compassion and caring" outcomes compared to other outcomes

Current Level of Competence

| Competency	2011-2012 Graduates	2015-2016 Graduates
Critical thinking	3.89	3.28
Ethics	3.94	3.55
Clinical competence	3.88	3.18
Evidence-based inquiry	3.71	3.12
Cultural competence	3.96	3.61
Effective communication	4.06	3.58
Leadership and service	3.8	3.27
Compassion and caring	4.16	3.9
Information management	3.78	3.21

● 2011-2012 Graduates ● 2015-2016 Graduates

Competency levels increase the most in areas of "Clinical competence", "Critical Thinking" and "Evidence based Inquiry" after three years in the profession

Other Achievements

Pursued advanced certifications/degrees (25%)

Participated in health related community service (17%)

Participated in research projects (14%)

Published articles (2%)

Received honors/awards/grants (6%)
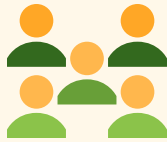
Alumni Satisfaction

89% would recommend SMU to others

90% report expectations met/exceeded at SMU

62% satisfied/very satisfied with value of investment at SMU

59% find educational debt unreasonable

Would Recommend SMU because.....

"Faculty excellence"
"Superior clinical experience"
"Small class size"
"Quality of the program"
"Accelerated options"
"Reputation"
"Simulation experience"

Would Not Recommend SMU because.....

"High tuition cost"
"Disorganized"
"Large debt"

Alumni expectations from SMU....

"Sim Lab use"
"Alumni events -more"
"Job search support"
"Debt consolidation/relief help"
"Full library access"